

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A Letter to the Official Draftsman is attached with proposed drawing corrections to Figures 2 and 3.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-11 as follows:

1. (Amended) Composite wear component produced by classical or centrifugal casting and consisting of

a metal matrix having a working face or faces including inserts which have wear resistance, the inserts consist of a porous ceramic pad, the porous ceramic pad consisting of a homogeneous solid solution of 20 to 80% of Al_2O_3 and 80 to 20% of ZrO_2 , the percentages being expressed by weights of the constituents, and the porous ceramic pad being integrated into the metal matrix by impregnation of a liquid metal in the porous ceramic pad during the casting.

2. (Amended) Composite wear component according to Claim 1, wherein the ceramic material includes from 55 to 60% by weight of Al_2O_3 and from 38 to 42% by weight of ZrO_2 .

3. (Amended) Composite wear component according to Claim 1, wherein the ceramic material includes from 70 to 77% by weight of Al_2O_3 and from 23 to 27% by weight of ZrO_2 .

4. (Twice Amended) Composite wear component according to claim 1, wherein the content of ceramic materials in the insert is between 35 and 80% by weight.

5. (Twice Amended) Composite wear component according to claim 1, wherein the inserts consist of an aggregate of composite ceramic grains which have a particle size within the range F6 to F22 according to the FEPA standard.

6. (Twice Amended) Composite wear component according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic grains are manufactured by one of electrofusion, sintering and flame spraying .

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7. (Twice Amended) Composite wear component according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic grains are joined integrally with the aid of an inorganic or organic liquid adhesive prior to the casting with the liquid metal with a view to the production of the ceramic pad.

8. (Amended) Composite wear component according to Claim 7, wherein the pad does not contain more than 4% of adhesive.

9. (Amended) Composite wear component produced by casting and composed of a metal matrix including at least one

ceramic pad, and at least two ceramic pads are placed side by side, leaving a gap of the order of 10 mm in order to permit the arrival of the liquid metal.

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Cont 10. (Twice Amended) Composite wear component produced by classical or centrifugal casting according to claim 1 and made up of a metal matrix including a wear-resistant ceramic pad, the ceramic pad is in the form of a honeycomb structure in which the various cells are of polygonal or circular shape within the ceramic phase.

11. (Amended) Composite wear component according to Claim 10, wherein a thickness of walls of the various cells constituting the ceramic phase varies from 5 to 25 mm.
